

THE OHIO DEMOCRAT.

BROWN & WHITE, - - - Proprietors
A. H. Wilson, - - - Editor.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4 - 1886.

We acknowledge the receipt of an invitation to attend the banquet to be given by the Jackson Club of Columbus on the evening of January 7th 1887.

COLUMBUS is having a fine time over the matter of Fire Chief. With a Republican Mayor and a Republican Council and a Republican Fire Chief the Democrats can well afford to let the war go on.

FIVE white owls have been killed by sportsmen near Columbus the past week. This indicates the near approach of a session of the Republican legislature. The members are wise as owls and harmless as serpents.

J. B. SHERIDAN, Representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge L. O. O. F., from the Patriarchal Branch of the Order in this State, was in town over Thursday night. Joseph is a grand good fellow and should be re-elected at the coming election.

THE case of Tucker vs. Columbus & Hocking Coal & Iron Co. continued.

This is a case that grows out of depositing the slack and waste of the coal mines on the borders of streams so that it is floated off during freshets and deposited along and over the low bottoms of Monday Creek, to the great injury of lands for agricultural purposes.

THE Columbus Sunday Capital announces its intention to support the Democratic party in the future. We presume that means Auditor of State Kelsae, J. H. Outhwaite, M. A. Daugherty, and a host of the other Democrats in and about the Capital city. We feel as did John the Baptist in regard to the hypocritical Jews—say to the Capital—“Bring forth fruits meet for repentance.”

BRO. EAGAN, of the Border News, announces the advent of a daughter in his family on the 24th of November, weighing 11½ pounds, and does some tall bragging.

We see nothing wonderful, but admit the young lady is a very respectable size. We are ready to bet a pint of pennants that when dressed, she weighed more than Bro. Eagan's Thanksgiving turkey when in the same condition.

Another Outrage.

A recount of the ballots cast at the recent election in the 3rd Camden, N. J. Assembly District, by the Supreme Court, wipes out the alleged Republican majority of 54 and elects a Democrat by a majority of 16. The errors were all found in three Republican precincts. This gives the Democrats a clear majority on joint-ballot in the legislature of that State and insures the election of a Democrat to the U. S. Senate and gives the Republican press a chance to howl about another Democratic outrage.

Convict Labor.

For many years the skilled laborers of the State have been raising their voices against the system of labor carried on in the penitentiary of the State, declaring that the labor of the convicts was brought in competition with that of the honest mechanic. That this is true none can dispute, and yet the remedy for the evil does not clearly appear to the thoughtful mind.

The law requires, that those who are confined in our penal prisons shall be required to labor and to labor means to produce. So long as this is true and so long as the production of articles requiring skill is continued the mechanic will be forced to bear the reduction. This will remain true without regard to the system adopted, so long as convicts are worked in the branches of skilled labor, and the adoption of one plan or another can but mitigate the evil.

Reduce The Taxes.

We have no war, but we have a tax-rate based upon the colossal expenditure made necessary by war. Money is now pouring into the National Treasury at the rate of \$1,000,000 a day—so fast that the expenditure authorized by Congress and the intermittent call of bonds which the Government still has the option of paying do not prevent a rapid accumulation of surplus. All of the bonds that may be paid will soon have been called for. What is then to be done? Shall Congress engage in extravagant schemes of outlay in order to keep down the plethora in the Treasury, or shall the exhaustive drain upon the pockets of the people be stopped by reducing our income to the measure of necessary expenditure for proper purposes? Upon the way in which the responsible majority in Congress deals with this

question will depend the manner in which the people will hereafter deal with that majority. The taxes must be cut down, and the people be relieved of the unnecessary burden of war taxes.

Vinton County Booming.

We clip the following from the McArthur Dem-Enquirer of Thursday, and if there is no mistake our neighboring county is on the boom. The Ohio Drill Company of Hamden Junction, in connection with parties here have succeeded in developing one of the finest tracts of mineral land ever discovered in the Hanging Rock Iron region. This tract contains about eighteen hundred acres, beginning at McArthur on the C. H. V. & T. Railroad and running east three miles to the C. W. & B. Railroad. This tract is underlaid at a depth of from 70 to 115 feet with what is known as the Wellston coal, in thickness, from 40 to 43 inches, and of excellent quality. At a distance below the surface of about fifty feet is found a vein of cannel coal, running in thickness from 3½ to 5 feet. At from 30 to 40 feet above this vein of cannel coal is found another vein of bituminous coal, of extra good quality, 4 feet in thickness, upon which rests a vein of gray limestone, averaging 6 feet in thickness. On the gray limestone rests the red limestone ore, of fine quality, from one to four feet in thickness. This makes an average of from 20 to 22 feet of mineral on this tract, and is claimed to be one of the finest “finds” ever discovered in this mineral region.

Our Presidents.

The passing away of ex-President Arthur brings again forcibly to the mind the tendency of the American people to exalt their President when in office, to forget them when their term expires and to pay them the scanty tribute of three days hero-worship when they die. We are not quite so bad as the wanton enchantress spoken of by Macaulay, “who when the forty days of fondness were over, not content with dismissing her lovers condemned them to expiate under cruel penances the crime of having pleased her too well;” but we do dismiss our sometime favorites with scant courtesy and few rewards.

What is needed is less adulation towards Presidents in office and more regard for ex-Presidents who have served their country faithfully and well. The President of the United States is not a king, nor even an uncrowned king. He is simply the servant of the people—their highest servant, but still a servant. The office is nevertheless the one most honorable in the world, and its occupant should be treated with the highest respect and deport himself with proper dignity. But the eager curiosity manifested as to a President's daily doings; the sickening sycophancy with which he is treated by the men who surround him; the courtiering that is resorted to to secure his favor, and the laudation of all his acts, without reference to their justice or wisdom, by personal and party friends and organs—all these show an unrepentant view of the office. The man is idealized to fit the station. And then the station gives to its holder greater power than any monarch possesses—the virtual appointment of more than 100,000 officials. It is to this fact that much of the undemocratic adulation of the President is due. Multiply all the offices by all the men who want them and all who wish to control them, and there are at least a million people directly interested in toadying to their President. That the adulation is to the official, not to the man, is shown by the suddenness with which it ceases as soon as the President returns to private life. If for no other reason than to preserve a truer estimate of the President's official character and functions, this enormous power of patronage should be taken from the Executive.

The American people owe it to themselves as a nation of self-governing freemen to correct the tendency into which they have fallen of treating their President as though he were the shadow of a king. And they may honor the office with equal justice by showing constant remembrance and respect for living citizens who have worthily filled it.

Ohio's Natural Resources.

According to a recent report of Professor Orton, of the Ohio Geological Bureau, the natural gas field of that State is commensurate in extent with its geographical limits. The geological formation belongs to the Silurian age, and lies in the neighborhood of Cincinnati 500 feet below the surface, and at Toledo at a depth of from 1100 to 1200 feet. The points around which there has been the greatest development of oil and gas are the towns of Lima and Findlay, in the northwestern part of the State, not far from Toledo. In the Lima region more oil than gas is being produced, and not less than fifteen joint stock companies have already been formed for its development. At the head of them, of course, is the Standard

Oil Company, which is preparing to gobble up all the rest. The natural gas region of Findlay has an extent of twenty-six miles in length by sixteen miles in breadth. Of the twenty-seven gas wells that have been opened only two have failed to realize the hopes of their owners. The most prolific daily produce 13,000,000 cubic feet of gas, others 10,000,000 feet, and the rest a somewhat less daily average. By its cheapness and abundance the gas has banished all other material of illumination as well as all other fuel for domestic purposes and manufacturing. There is not a gas meter in the town of Findlay. The inhabitants use much or little, at pleasure, paying \$1 a month for its use for cooking, \$1.50 a month for heating and 30 cents for lighting the whole house. Notwithstanding this cheapness of supply of light and fuel the people complain of monopoly and organizing to resist its exactions. As every owner of a house can sink a gas well in his own garden for about \$1500 there is no trouble in starting opposition companies. Nearly every considerable manufactory in the region has its own gas well.

So great is the extent of this natural gas territory that apprehensions of an exhaustion of the resources of nature in this regard have almost died away. In the Findlay region there has been an extraordinary industrial development, new enterprises springing up almost every day. Yet Pittsburg, with its own supplies of natural gas, and with its manufactures fully organized, will have little to fear in the long run from the competition of new regions. If the gas wells in the immediate vicinity of Pittsburg should fail in course of time the prolific Ohio territory could be drawn upon for fresh supplies. But in all manufactures in which fuel is an important element in cost of production successful competition with industrial centres possessing abundant supplies of natural gas will be extremely difficult, if not impossible. It will no longer be a question of excluding foreign products by prohibitory tariffs, but one of home competition among rival centres of industry, in which the weakest must go to the wall. Tariff or no tariff, England, Belgium and Germany, whose manufacturers must pay dearly for their coal, will be unable to compete in iron, steel, glass and many other products with a country possessing this great advantage in fuel.

Illinois Letter.

Stewardson, Ill. Nov. 30 '86

Mr. Editor: As we are always glad to read your paper, and would not do without it for twice what it costs, I will beg space for a few notes from this place.

The weather is cool with some snow.

The farmers are almost done corn husking.

The growing wheat looks splendid.

Some of the farmers are plowing ground to sow in oats next spring.

The yield of corn this season will be from 25 to 30 bu. per acre.

We have had a very nice fall so far as weather could make it.

This country is wonderfully adapted to poultry raising. They hatch chicks by machinery and poultry is so plentiful it can hardly be disposed of at any price.

We had an alarm of fire on last Thursday night at about 10 o'clock. The fire was in a dwelling house which with a portion of its contents was totally consumed. Loss two thousand dollars. No insurance.

I met Fred Crites, of Sugar Grove on our streets the 22d. He has bought a farm here, moved his family from Ohio, and will make this his home.

Jerry Carpenter and W. M. Murphy and wife, of old Hocking stopped and paid us a flying visit a few weeks since, when on their way to Kansas. They say they like Illinois better than Kansas or Ohio, if they had their houses here. We are always glad to meet Buck-eyes and give them a hearty shake and welcome. SUBSCRIBER.

Curious Hill.

Nov. 24 1886.

Mr. Frank Lehman has returned after a pleasant visit with his brother in Jay Co. Ind.

Miss Hattie Dawley was the guest of Miss Dora Dawley last Sunday.

Miss Sadie Brady left for Zanesville Tuesday.

The agent for the Cincinnati Weekly Telegram is canvassing all the mines in this locality.

The men at the Morris coal mines have been on a strike all this week. They are having some trouble about the check-weighman, but hope to resume work soon.

Burglars tried to enter the house of John Blosser one night last week but were scared away by some of

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